

8 January 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Improve Benefits in High Risk Situations - Legislation

1. P.L. 90-221 (S. 1785) amends Title IX of the Foreign Service Act (22 U.S.C. 1136, 1156) for the benefit of officers and employees and dependents covered by that Act. It also amends Title 5 for the benefit of officers and employees subject to the "Sick and Annual Leave Act."

2. Foreign Service.

a. Travel. The travel authorities of Title IX of the Foreign Service Act are enlarged in two respects. First, for family visitation by officers and employees where the family is by official order precluded from the assigned post because of danger from hostile activity. Second, for family visitation by officers, employees, or their dependents located abroad in emergency situations involving personal hardship such as serious illness or death in the immediate family.

b. Medical Services. Medical services under Title IX of the Foreign Service Act are extended beyond the date of death or separation for the benefit of an officer or employee or his dependent. While not intended as a postretirement medical care program, the statutory language is broad. The exact program will be spelled out by regulations issued under the authority of the Secretary of State.

3. General Applicability. The Act further extends the sick and annual leave authority applicable to Federal employees in general, including this Agency, by providing for what amounts to up to one year administrative leave in connection with injury occurred abroad resulting from hostile action. The provision is retroactive to the first pay period on or after January 1, 1965, to cover the bombing of the Saigon Chancery.

4. The so-called administrative leave provision has been called to the attention of appropriate officials and is applicable to the Agency without need for further action. The amendments to the Foreign Service Act have likewise been brought to the attention of appropriate officials for their review and recommendation.

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[Redacted]
Office of Legislative Counsel

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